

# THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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*"This work of God possesses within itself principles of native strength that will enable it to weather every storm, outlive all hatred born of ignorance and prejudice, and will yet prove itself to be what indeed it is—the power of God unto salvation, to all those who believe and obey it."*—BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.

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## JOSEPH F. MERRILL

ELDER BRYANT S. HINCKLEY, PRESIDENT OF LIBERTY STAKE

THERE is no greater inspiration to the youth of this Church than the achievements of its leaders. *Who's Who in America*, a biographical dictionary of notable living men and women of the United States, has this to say with reference to Dr. Joseph F. Merrill:



JOSEPH F. MERRILL

Educator: born in Richmond, Utah, August 24th, 1868; son of Marriner Wood and Maria L. (Kingsbury) Merrill; graduated from Normal School of University of Utah, 1889; B.S., University of Michigan, 1893; Cornell, summers of 1893 and 1902; University of Chicago, summers of 1894, 1896, 1897; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 1899; D.Sc., University of Utah, 1920. Married Annie Laura Hyde, of Salt Lake City, June 9th, 1898. She died February, 1917. Married Emily L. Traub of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, June 29th, 1918. Assistant professor of chemistry 1893-97, professor of physics and physical chemistry 1897-99, director Utah State School of Mines and Engineering 1897-1928, professor of physics and electrical engineering 1899-1928, director of war training 1918, University of Utah; Commissioner of Education,

Latter-day Saint Church, 1928. Member and secretary Utah State Conservation Commission 1909-12. Advisory member Democratic State Central Committee, campaigns 1910, 12, 14, 16. Member "Mormon" Church: 1st counsellor in presidency of Granite Stake, 1911-19. Fellow of American Institute Electrical Engineers A. A. A. S., American Physical Society, Utah Academy of Science. Member Society for Promotion of Engineering. Education, N. E. A., Utah Society of Engineers. Education, N. E. A., Utah Society of Engineers (pres. 1907-10). Utah Teachers' Association (pres. 1911.) Member of the Governing Board of Engineers, Council of Utah. 1921-27 (pres. 1923-24). Author: *Manual of Physics*, 1907, 3rd edit. 1927. Home: 1324 East 1st South St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

The foregoing is a compact statement epitomizing the work of a busy life, and giving in outline the achievements of the latest apostle to be ordained in the Church, Dr. Joseph F. Merrill. While it clearly indicates definite capabilities and characteristics, it gives no clear impression of the man himself, who is finer and better than anything he has done.

Reading this digest one is enabled to make some deductions with reference to him.

1st—He is scientific-minded, which means that he has that quality of intellect upon which superior accomplishments depend, else he could not have achieved so splendidly; winning the titles which adorn his name and doing the work which stands to his credit. The men are few indeed who have achieved so much in the scientific field. This is the result of superior ability backed with hard work.

Commenting upon Dr. Merrill's ability, his life-long friend and intimate associate, Dr. Richard R. Lyman, said:

Joseph F. Merrill has a keen intellect. His degree, Doctor of Philosophy from Johns Hopkins University, with election to the honorary literary society of Phi Beta Kappa on top of it, makes a scholastic honour obtained by few anywhere in the land, to say nothing of those from our small state. It is only possible to those who have unusual mental capacity to achieve such eminence in modern scholarship.

2nd—He is thoroughly trained, as shown in the fact that he has the highest credentials from some of the foremost institutions in the United States. He is recognized as an authority in the field in which he has given his major service. This is further shown in the contributions which he has made to engineering through research and investigation.

While a student in the University of Michigan, Dr. Merrill assisted Professor Novey and others in the medical department who were carrying on some very important experimental work and needed the assistance of a competent chemist. He was recommended for this work by the department of chemistry. This contact with great investigators was an inspiration to him in his

later work, and his selection for this work is proof of his superior ability.

3rd—He is professionally interested in his work, which fact is evidenced by his active participation in the learned societies and organizations with which he is identified, and which have for their aim the advancement of engineering and all that is related to it.

He has membership in the national, as well as local scientific organizations in his field of work; he is a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physics Society, the Utah Academy of Sciences, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, and the National Education Association.

At home he has been active in all local organizations of like character. He is a charter member of the Utah Society of Engineers and has repeatedly been president of the society. He has been president of the Utah Educational Association, of the Utah Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, also of the Engineering Council of Engineers.

4th—He is practical in his thinking, preferring always to deal with realities rather than with theories. He keeps his feet firmly on the ground—he never loses his orientation; he is sane and safe.

5th—He is alert and progressive in his ideas, always thinking ahead of his profession.

6th—He is thoroughly grounded in his faith.

Perhaps the major accomplishment of his life was the work which he did in the University of Utah in the establishment of the School of Mines, and in the organization and development of the department of physics and electrical engineering over which he presided.

Economy, honesty and industry are ingrained in his very nature. He is intrinsically and genuinely honest, and any waste or extravagance is distasteful to him. He learned these great underlying and fundamental virtues as a boy in his own home, and they have found expression throughout his life. The fact that he is ruggedly and basically honest is shown in the way in which he has handled public funds. This was clearly manifested in his work in the University of Utah.

He managed the affairs of his department most efficiently and economically, planning the courses so that civil, electrical, mechanical, mining and other engineering students had the same curriculum for the first two years of their courses. This plan of keeping the students together in the same classes avoided small classes and thus greatly reduced expenses, and thereby made it possible to better equip the laboratories. The plan proposed by Dr. Merrill at the University of Utah later became the plan generally approved by engineering schools, and the one recommended in 1925 by the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the

authoritative organization in this country in the teaching of engineering.

This plan was the best for the institution and best for the students—best for the institution because it cost less and best for the students because it provided better facilities without additional cost.

Dr. Merrill introduced another innovation of great merit: In January, 1919, the large freshman class in engineering was divided into two sections, one with class work in the morning and laboratory work in the afternoon; the other with laboratory work in the morning and class work in the afternoon. This made the laboratory available and busy all day, and likewise kept the class rooms occupied. Under this plan, laboratory equipment which otherwise might be used by only twenty students going once a week, provided facilities for two hundred and twenty students, there being eleven one-half day periods during the school week. It is apparent that this plan effected a tremendous economy without interfering with the efficiency of the work, and at the same time enabled students who were compelled to do part time work for their maintenance to better adjust their programme of study.

As director of the School of Mines and Engineering and head of the Department of Physics and Electrical Engineering at the University of Utah, as well as Commissioner of Education, this same principle of wisdom and economy was carried out.

These are all general statements, and they do not deal with the interesting human side of his life. Joseph F. Merrill has a fine background. His forbears on both sides were strong and superior people. His father, Marriner W. Merrill of the Quorum of the Twelve, was a man of enterprise and business sagacity, with an unusual spiritual insight, possessing at the same time that rare and priceless capacity of training boys in the fundamentals of success, industry, integrity, self-reliance, and a desire for learning. To his children this man was far above all other men.

Dr. Merrill grew to manhood on a farm near Richmond, Cache County, Utah, the eldest of his mother's boys, which fact forced him, early in life, to carry responsibility and to make the acquaintance of hard work.

The farm has been the cradle of many of the ablest and best men in America. Contact with the soil gives a boy a soberness in his thinking and a sense of values hard to acquire in any other way.

When eleven he worked with a railroad construction camp as water boy, and then he drove a team and scraper when he was so small that his brother had to help him dump the scraper, and at thirteen he did a man's work on the railroad. He was large for his age.

He attended a school in the little town of Richmond which was

two miles from the farm on which his family lived. Whenever the weather would permit he walked to and from school. This necessitated his rising early in the morning in order to do his chores in time for school and then working after school until dark, so he had no time to play.

He was exceedingly diffident and now refers with much feeling and interest to his first experience as ward teacher. Ward teaching among the scattered families of his neighbourhood had to be done during the day. When he was a young priest he was assigned to labour in this capacity with Elder Joseph Kerr, an experienced and capable teacher. With regularity these brethren made their visits every month. During these visits the young priest had to take his turn presiding, conducting the meeting in every other family. It was a great and difficult task for a boy, but he did his best. When it was over and he returned home his heart was light and his soul full of peace and satisfaction. He declares now that that was the best training and among the best experiences he has ever had in the Church.

Thus in his youth he became thoroughly established in his faith—it has been a settled and dominant influence in his life. No matter where Joseph F. Merrill has gone, or in what company he has mingled, he has been able to make an intelligent and convincing defense of the religion of the Latter-day Saints.

As a boy he had a deep desire for an education, and his wise father sought to satisfy this longing by giving to his son every encouragement in his educational ambitions, supplying him with the necessary funds, but otherwise leaving the responsibility with him. All of the money was returned with interest. Dr. Merrill's record in school, which was outstanding, inspired his brothers with an ambition to emulate his example, and here is the record of the family :

Fourteen sons—eleven of whom were graduated from college. Eight of them did graduate work in leading American universities outside of Utah, three of them receiving the degree Ph.D. and four Master's degrees. The two others received M.D. degrees. Four sons became heads of departments in state universities, one other a department head in a private university, and another a public school superintendent. Of the others, one became a bank manager, and two heads of departments in large industrial organizations functioning in several states, one of them national in scope. Of the remaining three sons one is a farmer and two are equally successful business salesmen and are leaders in their communities.

From his childhood Joseph F. Merrill has been active in Church service. While attending the University of Michigan he presided over the branch there and on his return he was associated with Dr. Richard R. Lyman in the Superintendency of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of Salt Lake

Stake. For eight years he was counsellor to President Frank Y. Taylor of Granite Stake. He was ordained to the apostleship October 8th, 1931.

In June, 1898, he married Annie Laura Hyde, daughter of Alonzo and Annie Maria Taylor Hyde, a woman of nobility of character and rare sweetness of disposition. She died 1917, leaving the following children: Joseph H., Annie H., Edith H., Rowland H., Taylor H., Eugene H., and Laura H. These children have displayed the sterling qualities of their parents. They have all been graduated from college except the youngest daughter Laura H., who is in the University of Utah at the present time. The eldest son, Joseph H., died from an attack of influenza in November, 1918, while in the service of the U. S. Government. The other three boys have filled honourable missions. These children are all brilliant and ambitious and have maintained the fine traditions of the Merrill family.

In June, 1918, he married his present wife, Emily L. Tranb, who has been an inspiration to her husband and a mother to his children—always co-operating with him in his endeavours. She is an educated woman of sound judgment and warm sympathies, wise and prudent in the management of his home, amiable, ambitious and capable. In addition to managing the home she attended the University of Utah, and, in 1922, graduated with her foster daughters, Annie and Edith. And the three of them were made members of Phi Kappa Phi, honorary scholarship fraternity.

In Dr. Merrill the love of home and children is very strong. His many and exacting duties require his frequent absence from home, particularly since his call to the apostleship; but whenever he is not obliged to be away on duty he is at home, for that is the abiding place of his affections and the center of his interest.

In 1928 he was made Commissioner of Education for the Church, and vigorously set to work to administer the duties of this important calling.

It is interesting to note that Joseph F. Merrill was the man who had the vision to see the possibilities of our present Seminary work. When he was taken into the Granite Stake presidency twenty-two years ago, he became interested in the religious education of the students of Granite High School, and as a result of his initiative this work was introduced in that district.

He has lived to see more than one hundred seminaries established in connection with the leading high schools of this intermountain country. It seemed particularly appropriate and happy that he should be selected to give direction to this great movement, to plan its promotion and to prescribe its course. This is a movement of far-reaching and deep significance.

Dr. Merrill is a natural leader and legislator. He makes up his mind definitely and acts promptly. At the same time he has a large and statesmanlike view and has been instrumental in securing some important legislative measures. He wrote the bill establishing the State School of Mines at the University of Utah. He was also instrumental in establishing the Utah Experiment Station, including the department of Mines and Metallurgical research. His leadership and co-operative work in this direction have been worth millions of dollars to this state.

He is and always has been a valiant and tireless worker.

At the time he was made Commissioner of Education he was Dean of the Engineering School and Director of the Utah Engineering Experiment Station at the University of Utah and at the same time Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering. Thus in addition to his important executive work he carried a full teaching load.

If we were called upon to make an analysis of Dr. Merrill's fitness for his place among the general authorities of the Church, which is an exalted and responsible calling, we would at least accent the quality and steadfastness of his faith. He is a man of great intellectual power, of unusual scientific training, with a wide contact with philosophers, scientists and thinkers.

Always with an open mind and an honest heart he has sought after truth, exploring the realms of religion, philosophy and science, and through it all nothing has dimmed or disturbed his faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Never has he wavered in his allegiance to the Church. No one has ever questioned his faith or his orthodoxy. His understanding of religion, like his science or mathematics, is profound and fundamental.

The currents of his life run deep and strong and quiet. Clear in his thinking, broad in his sympathies, tolerant in his views, unassuming, approachable, sincere and genuine, he has in happy combination all the major qualifications for a leader among this people and a place in the Apostleship of the Church.—(*Improvement Era*, December, 1932.)

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SPIRITUALITY hallows life. It enlarges the soul and brings one closer to God. Spirituality broadens life and makes room for all mankind in the scheme of things. Spirituality brings into your lives that which is sacred and crowds out that which is coarse and vile. It is the seed of brotherly love, and through it God works to remake our souls.—WILLIS J. LYMAN.

TO ME it seems as if when God conceived the world, that was poetry; He formed it, and that was sculpture; He varied and coloured it, and that was painting; and then, crowning all, He peopled it with living beings, and that was the grand divine, eternal drama.—CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1933

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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER EVIDENCE FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON

*The Great Migration* is a recent, much reviewed book, which unwittingly testifies to the truth of the Book of Mormon. J. Fitzgerald Lee, the author, has written the volume in support of his hypothesis that the Hebrew race originated in America and migrated therefrom to Asia. In defense of this thesis he has assembled many evidences of the racial relationship between the Hebrew nation and the inhabitants of ancient America. An excellent bibliography indicates the wide research of the author, and the text itself is couched in simple, but scholarly, temperate language. The most striking thing about the work is the concurrent testimony of the many men, of different lands and periods of time, who have observed the relationship between the Hebrews and ancient Americans.

The author says: "During the last century a great number of travellers, explorers, archaeologists, and ethnologists, have noted and put forward various explanations to account for very striking similarities between the ancient architecture, culture, customs, folk-lore and legends which are common to the valley of the Nile and tropical America. The flood of evidence for such close likeness and perfect resemblances as have been found to exist, even the very identity of the legends, is irresistible, irrefutable, and challenging."

The similarity between the buildings and other monuments of ancient America and Egypt is well known, but in this volume many things are pointed out which are not of common knowledge, as, for instance, that in the Egyptian and in American pyramids the relation between the height and base of the pyramid is the ratio between the circumference and area of a circle.

The prehistoric Americans had many customs in common with the Hebrews. The ancient Mexican calendar was that used in several Asiatic countries. In ancient America, a man was to marry his dead brother's widow; an ark was kept in the holy place, and an annual celebration was nearly identical in procedure with the feast of the passover.

The legends of the people of ancient America are so much like the stories of the Old Testament that Father Duran, an explorer of long residence among American aborigines, was impelled to write, "I verily believe that the evil spirit himself must have somehow supplied these poor people with a spurious edition of

the Bible." Adam, the Garden of Eden, the Fall, the Flood, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the plagues of Egypt, Moses, Joshua, Samson, and numerous other Bible events and individuals have been found to be current among the early inhabitants of America.

The languages of early America also point to a Hebrew origin or relationship, as the author demonstrates by a number of well chosen examples. It is interesting to note that a pyramid was called in an ancient American tongue Teo Kalli; and that a house of God is called Theo Kalia in Greek. Latter-day Saints will recognize the ancient American word Nephiq, also used in the Samaritan Pentateuch, which is much like the Egyptian word Nefika, the land of going forth.

These themes are clearly elaborated by Mr. Lee. His argument for the original identity of the Hebrews and the people of ancient America is well supported by striking facts. His hypothesis that the Hebrews originated in America and migrated to Asia is not convincing, for the observed facts quoted by him may all be explained on the assumption that the Hebrews migrated from Asia to America, and there built up a civilization. Nevertheless, no one can deny the possibility of people migrating at some early period from America to Asia.

The Book of Mormon records the brief histories of three migrations from Asia to America; one at the time of the building of the Tower of Babel; the other two from Jerusalem about 600 years B. C., at the time of King Zedekiah. These travellers brought with them to America the traditions of widely separated periods; the last migration brought distinctively Hebrew culture and literature.

As the volume of knowledge concerning the ancient world increases, notably of Israel and America, the evidence for the truth of the Book of Mormon increases. The book, *The Great Migration*, is but another witness to the integrity of the Book of Mormon, and of the man who, under divine inspiration, translated it and gave it to the world as a witness for the Lord.—W.

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## DEDICATORY PRAYER OFFERED ON "DESERET"

ELDER JAMES GUNN MCKAY

WHAT actually takes place when a servant of the Lord raises his hand and dedicates a building or a place for a certain purpose? Are angels sent to guard the thing that is dedicated, or does the Spirit of the Lord so operate to bring about the sacred intent of the prayer? As yet I have never doubted that something real does happen. It may be invisible to the mortal eye, and not revealed to our understanding, yet I am convinced that some such

action takes place, and the following thrilling experience will illustrate the point:

As the World War settled down to a fierce struggle, to the end that each side tried to outdo the other, among one of the first things of a new and novel nature, were attacks on London from the air. These air raids grew more frequent and deadly. Every cellar, underground railway, and substantial house, was used by the people for protection. It occurred to me that "Deseret," our headquarters, was the very kind of a building to provide the people of that neighbourhood with safe shelter. The police were notified and they hung up their common sign, "Air-Raid Shelter." The first raid that came after that brought 1,064 people to this building. Oh, what a night it was!

The maroons were fired and the sirens blew their shrill sounds of warning. The people everywhere, some of them half dressed, ran for shelter. What a busy time we had. Children were crying, women were screaming, and everyone was not only hurrying, but was frightened almost out of his wits.

When these people were all in the building and some semblance of order was secured, we went out to bring those who had fainted. The lady that I carried was stricken with hysteria, and screamed in my ear all the way.

Soon we had the people singing hymns, and after a time they were invited to take part in the meeting in the Assembly hall. It was a strange experience to have my sermon punctuated by bursting bombs, but the Spirit of the Lord was manifest to many present. Among the things that were promised the people was that the building would not be hit by bomb or shell, and that it would be a place of safety for both friends and strangers that would seek shelter in it.

Afterwards, I came across the minutes which gave an account of the dedicatory services that were held at "Deseret" in 1908. President Charles W. Penrose offered the dedicatory prayer. He promised that it would be a place of safety, a refuge in time of danger, and haven of rest for those who would come to it.

"Deseret" went through all the air raids that were sent against London. Not a single shell or bomb hit the building. The saints, soldiers and strangers found it to be a place of safety. It is true that shrapnel fell upon the building and a large piece fell between two policemen that were talking at the door, but no one was injured. Within a stone's throw of the building, people were killed and many windows shattered. Only one window was broken in the building, and that was done by the explosion at Silvertown, eight miles away.

That one inspired prayer threw a shield around the building and thousands enjoyed the protection.

Many testified that a sweet, peaceful spirit was in the place,

which calmed their excitement and drove away their fright whenever they entered its doors.

When men are sent to do His work, the Spirit of the Lord accompanies and protects them. There is truth in the words of the song, "Fear not, I am with thee, O, be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid."

Very few Elders were left in the British Mission. I was appointed to preside over the London District. My duties required my presence at the Stratford Branch, on the east side of London. While addressing the saints, the janitor burst into the room shouting "They're coming! Air raid! Leave at once—lights out!" Whether we liked it or not, we had to go. I advised the saints to go to their branch president's home, and if they would sing hymns they would be all right, but as for myself, I must make my way back to "Deseret." I knew that hundreds of people would be there without a shepherd. Many appealed to me to stay, but I felt I must go where duty called.

I boarded the first street car that came my way, but before I realized what had happened, the car stopped and the driver and conductor jumped off and ran to an air raid shelter. I could stay in the car if I wanted to, apparently, that was not any concern of theirs.

I would not be defeated, so I began to walk. The streets were dark, the searchlights were scanning the skies, the drone of the aeroplanes could be heard, and not a vehicle to be seen. Now and then a person would scurry along and be lost in the darkness. The great city of London seemed dead, and yet in spite of the silence the very air was saturated with expectancy. As I walked I could not help pondering on the strange scene that surrounded me, but my review was suddenly ended. An anti-aircraft gun burst forth with terrific noise on my right, the building seemed to rock. For a moment I was unable to tell whether they were aiming at me or the enemy birdman.

When approaching Hackney Station the barrage was most intense. The bombs were dropping and there was a literal hail of shrapnel. I hesitated, not knowing what to do, for just then a shell penetrated a street car and buried itself fifteen feet in the ground. A policeman called me into the station. While there a lady conductress pleaded for someone to go with her to her home and babies. A stocky Englishman and myself volunteered. The man mounted the driver's seat and we started.

It was not long before we ran into a hail of shrapnel which was striking lightning on the buildings and the pavement. The bombs were bursting, buildings were shattered, people were screaming, and our danger was increased by the driver losing his nerve. He stopped and backed the bus at a terrific rate until the conductress gave the signal to go forward. The two bells seemed to bring him to his senses, and we renewed the journey.

What a night and what a ride! The air was alive with bursting shells. The boom of the bombs, first on one side and then on the other, meant death to a number of people. The concussion of the explosion sent glass flying like snowflakes everywhere. The cries of men and women made a perfect bedlam.

When we reached Stamford Hill the barrage had passed further down the city, but the glare of two burning aeroplanes lit up the skies. I bade the conductress goodbye. I assured her that she would find her babies unharmed. In reply she said, "Oh, sir, I wish you were going with me to the end of the journey. I have never felt such a wonderful spirit of protection as accompanies you. God bless you. Goodnight."

Hurrying on toward "Deseret" I was stopped by four women running toward me shouting, "Save us! Save us!" I said I could not save them, and then added: "If you knew that I am a 'Mormon' missionary, perhaps you would think that you were running into a worse danger than an air raid." One of them quickly replied, "We don't care who you are so long as you save us." I have always been glad that my mission president did not see me at that moment, for I never was held as tightly in my life, nor did they relinquish their hold until I had brought them inside of "Deseret."

"Deseret" was crowded with people. As soon as they recognized me they gave me an applause which amounted to an ovation.

After a meeting had been held for an hour, and the people had dispersed, I reverently bowed my head, while tears ran down my cheeks, and I thanked the Lord for His protection.

Note: There were twenty people converted and baptized through coming to these air raid meetings.—(*Deseret News*, December 10th, 1932.)

## A LOCAL MISSIONARY'S TESTIMONY

ANNA HIGGINSON, MANCHESTER DISTRICT

[THE following characteristic Latter-day Saint testimony was forwarded to the *Star* by Elder William Gregson, president of the Manchester Branch, Manchester District. In his explanatory letter Elder Gregson writes: "I have asked this dear sister to write this testimony for several reasons. She resides almost thirty miles from the nearest branch and very rarely sees anyone connected with the Church. She can only attend conference every six months owing to the fact that she has a sick father to nurse, and consequently cannot be away from home very often. She spends what leisure time she has in tracting near her home with tracts purchased at her own expense. She pays an honest tithing each month, and also pays a fast offering for another aged sister in the Gospel. In addition to this she looks after little financial matters connected with this sister's infirmities. It is an inspiration to me to receive her letter each month, telling of the goodness of the Lord to her in this beautiful village."]

It is with great joy that I bear my testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has been restored in its fullness in these latter days. I know without a shadow of a doubt that God is our Heavenly Father, that His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and our Redeemer, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

I testify to you in all sincerity that the Holy Priesthood has again been restored to the earth with all its gifts and blessings as of old. God has again spoken and revealed His mind and will to His children; and by that Divine power men have authority to administer, in the name of Jesus Christ, the ordinances of the Gospel. His message to the people is, "Repent, and be baptized for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." I know that this promise is fulfilled to all those who humble themselves as a little child and do His biddings. Oh! the joy that follows obedience. When I came forth out of the waters of baptism I felt so happy. And after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands by those holding the Holy Priesthood, my soul was filled with a joy unspeakable. My whole being rejoiced and my heart was filled with praise and thanksgiving to the God of heaven and my Redeemer for their wonderful love and goodness to me.

When I began to read and study the Holy Bible afterwards, it was like a new book to me, and I could understand it by that same Spirit by which all the Holy Scripture was inspired and written.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." He gave His Well-Beloved, to come to earth and suffer that we might be redeemed and sanctified. He has given us laws whereby we can be blessed both spiritually and temporally. The Word of Wisdom tells us what to do in order that our bodies may become strong and healthy, fit tabernacles for the Holy Spirit to dwell within. We must abstain from hot drinks such as tea and coffee. We are promised if we do this we shall find great treasures of knowledge, etc. He has given us the Law of Tithing and promised us that if we will obey it, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that we will not have room enough to receive it. I know He keeps His promises. "I the Lord am bound if ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, then ye have no promise."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true Church, as its title denotes. The Saviour Himself gave it that name and as He spoke, so it is. It is what the struggling world needs to-day, to guide them back into paths of peace and love. It is the key to unlock every problem of life. The door into the kingdom is the door of baptism, the same entrance that the Saviour taught.

I thank God for membership in His Church, and pray that I

may ever do our Father's will and be faithful in all things. I desire to work for both the living and the dead, that all may partake of the beautiful Gospel of Peace. "Let the dead speak forth anthems of praise to the King Emmanuel, who hath ordained before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prisons; for the prisoners shall go free," as revealed to the prophet of God.

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## NEWCASTLE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE song, "An Angel From On High," marked the opening of the interesting and successful semi-annual conference of the Newcastle District, held December 11th, in the Hawk's Assemblage, Gateshead. After a brief preliminary programme, the congregation separated into two groups where brief reports were given by each of the eight branch representatives, followed by some very valuable instructions from the Mission Authorities in attendance.

General Authorities of the Church were voted upon and unanimously sustained during the first part of the afternoon session. District President Cleon H. Kerr presented the historical report of the district for the last six months, some of the salient points of which were: A 13 per cent. increase in the payment of tithing, 65 copies of the Book of Mormon distributed, and 33 persons baptized into the Church. Local members and travelling missionaries then occupied the remainder of the time in discussing the theme "The Gospel and Friendship."

One hundred and eighty people assembled for the concluding meeting in the evening. Sister Rintla P. Douglas, the first speaker, described pioneer incidents connected with her early life. President James H. Douglas delivered an inspiring testimony on the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, and closed with a strong plea for careful investigation of this Gospel and the philosophy of life it offers. Patriarch James H. Wallis discoursed upon logical aspects of the Church's doctrines, compared the conversion of Apostle Paul with that of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and exhorted all present to live nearer to the Lord and obey the laws given for their own benefit.

Authorities and travelling Elders present were: Patriarch James H. Wallis of the European Mission; President and Sister James H. Douglas and Elder Percy L. Matthews of the British Mission; President Cleon H. Kerr and Elders Sylvan E. Needham, Jr., Vern R. Butcher and Robert H. Booth of the Newcastle District; and Elder E. Wendell Stringfellow of the Sheffield District.

VERN R. BUTCHER, Clerk of Conference.

## CHURCH WIDE NEWS

*Rasha*—*The Jew*, a new book by Elder Brigham H. Roberts, has just been issued from the press. The book consists of an interesting narrative which sets forth the scriptural and doctrinal views of the Church concerning the Jews, Gentiles and "Mormons."

NATIONAL and international wireless broadcasts of the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir and organ during the past year, have been the object of thousands of laudatory letters and favourable comments. Only the outstanding loyalty and fidelity of the choir members has made these broadcasts possible.

PROFESSOR GEORGE CARELESS, aged 93, pioneer musician and composer, died at his home in Salt Lake City, December 16th. Professor Careless was born in London in 1839, studied at the Royal Academy of Music, and gave up a very promising career to join the body of Latter-day Saints in Utah. He was called by President Brigham Young to "lay the foundation for good music in Utah," to which task he faithfully devoted nearly seventy-five years.

## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Doings in the Districts:** *Free State*—Fifty-two persons attended the annual Sunday School party, January 2nd, of the Dublin Branch. Prizes were distributed to the children, games were played and refreshments served. Sister Ena Birchall and Laura Dimiler delighted the audience with their singing, as also did Pearli Steel, the 5 year old daughter of the Branch President. Distinguished guests present included Dr. and Mrs. Morgan and their two sons from South Africa.

*Leeds*—Christmas Eve found the members of the Clayton Branch fully enjoying the spirit of the season. Carols, games and refreshments contributed to the success of the affair which was held in their branch hall.

*London*—The New Year was jubilantly welcomed and the old one given a hearty send-off by the district members at a party held in Mascot House, Stoke Newington, London. President and Sister John A. Widtsoe, Patriarch and Sister James H. Wallis and President and Sister James H. Douglas honoured the party with their presence.

*Manchester*—Many neighbouring children participated in a children's party held in the Rochdale Branch on Christmas Eve. A similar affair took place in the Hyde Branch, Father Christmas generously distributing presents to all the kiddies.

Upper Brook Street Co-operative hall was the scene of a gala Boxing Day dance under the auspices of the Manchester Branch. The Sylvan dance orchestra furnished excellent music, and prizes were awarded to the most proficient dancers. Refreshments consisting of rolls, cakes, lemonade and ice cream were served by the Relief Society. Many visitors remarked concerning the wholesome spirit of recreation and friendliness which prevailed.

*Hull*—Thirty-five persons of the Gainsboro' Branch gathered December 9th, and enjoyed a lively party given by the Sunday School.

*Liverpool*—Featuring a clever pantomime directed by Maggie Blackledge, entitled, "Red Riding Hood," Blackburn Branch Sunday School sponsored a New Year's eve social. Over eighty members and friends were present.

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## THERE ARE LOYAL HEARTS

THERE are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,

There are souls that are pure and true ;

Then give to the world the best you have,

And the best shall come back to you.

Give love, and love to your heart will flow,

A strength in your utmost need ;

Have faith, and a score of hearts will show

Their faith in your word and deed.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,

'Tis just what you are and do ;

Then give to the world the best you have,

And the best will come back to you.

MADELINE S. BRIDGES.

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## DEATHS

**BURTON**—Sister Sarah Ann Burton, aged fifty-nine, a faithful member of the Leeds Branch, Leeds District, died November 18th, while attending a farewell party in honour of President Frank J. Mozley. Services were held under the supervision of President William H. Clawson, and the grave was dedicated by Elder Max R. Openshaw.

**ROSTRON**—Brother John Rostron of the Blackburn Branch, Liverpool District, passed away November 26th. Branch President Walter Thompson directed the services and President Clarence R. Ellsworth dedicated the grave.

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